

The Veterans Health Subcommittee has heard about the increasing rates of TBI among our returning veterans. A DOD study after Vietnam found that 53 percent of soldiers with brain injuries suffered from a penetrating TBI, the most severe type of TBI. About 15 percent of these also developed epilepsy soon after their injury.

Longer deployments put our heroes at greater risk for these injuries and mental health conditions. At the same time, advancements in medicine have saved many soldiers from injuries that only a few years ago would have been fatal. The result is a greater number of vets in the VA health care system with these types of injuries.

As a veteran myself, I was proud to serve my country at the end of the Vietnam War. Vietnam veterans returned home with head injuries, TBI and PTSD, but were not properly diagnosed. This bill honors their service by improving access to health care for current and future veterans. H.R. 2818 will go a long way in helping change our health care system to one that is prepared for tomorrow's challenges.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation, as we did in the Veterans Affairs Committee, and I want to especially once again thank our Congressman from Colorado, who has a special interest for his leadership in making sure that our veterans have the health care that they deserve.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman from Colorado. He is a very valuable member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. He and I have traveled part of the world together and I have tremendous respect for him. He also knows the Veterans' Affairs Committee works best when it works in a bipartisan fashion. So I turn to my good friend and ask for that help and assistance and best counsel that he can give to the chairman to stop the divisiveness that occurs on the committee by the actions he has been taking.

With that, I embrace the gentleman from Colorado. The gentleman should also know if the House is not going to address the big energy issues that also face America, and in particular your State with regard to oil shale and being able to access important sources of oil for this country, then I have to be able to create the nexus, Mr. Chairman, where I can, to talk about the impact of energy on this country and the impact upon veterans in this country.

With that, I reserve my time.

Mr. FILNER. I am the closing speaker on our side, Mr. Speaker, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2818, as amended, and, with that, I yield back.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, with all the huffing and puffing, I am glad the minority ranking member supports the bill. Let me

remind people what this bill is all about. It is about our veterans. It is about our veterans.

A DOD study after Vietnam found in fact that 15 percent of veterans with severe traumatic brain injury, TBI, developed epilepsy soon after their injury. We know how many TBI victims we have from Iraq and Afghanistan. So as more and more veterans move from DOD health care to the VA health care system, the VA must be prepared to treat TBI and epilepsy.

The Epilepsy Centers of Excellence in this bill by Mr. PERLMUTTER of Colorado would function as centers of research on the diagnosis, treatment and long-term effects of epilepsy. It gives the VA the tools to provide to veterans with epilepsy the quality of care that they deserve.

I join my ranking member in urging my colleagues to support H.R. 2818, as amended.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I would ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2818, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2818, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of epilepsy centers of excellence in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE TWO HOUSES

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged concurrent resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 379

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, June 26, 2008, or Friday, June 27, 2008, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, July 8, 2008, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or

adjourns on any day from Thursday, June 26, 2008, through Friday, July 4, 2008, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, July 7, 2008, or such other time on that day as may be specified in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHULER). The question is on the concurrent resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 5876 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

STOP CHILD ABUSE IN RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS FOR TEENS ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1276 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5876.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5876) to require certain standards and enforcement provisions to prevent child abuse and neglect in residential programs, and for other purposes, with Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).